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#### Rhodium-catalyzed arylation of acylsilanes with sodium tetraarylborates

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Abstract: Rhodium(I)-catalyzed arylation of benzoylsilanes with sodium tetraarylborates affords  $\alpha$ -silyl benzhydrols, benzhydryl silyl ethers, benzhydrols, and diaryl ketones selectively depending on the catalyst, solvent, and temperature.



Keywords: Acylsilane, Addition, Alcohol, Boron, Homogeneous catalysis, Ketone, Rhodium

#### 1. Introduction

Extensive studies have been conducted on rhodium(I)-catalyzed 1,2-addition reactions of arylboron compounds to carbonyl compounds, which has become an indispensable synthetic tool in the preparation of alcohols and ketones [1]. Several classes of carbonyl

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compounds, including aldehydes [2], ketones [3], esters [4] and acid anhydrides [5], have been identified as viable reaction partners for the rhodium(I)-catalyzed arylation with arylboron compounds. However, to the best of our knowledge, the literature contains no reports of the rhodium(I)-catalyzed arylation of acylsilanes with arylboron compounds [6,7]. We herein report that rhodium-catalyzed addition reactions of sodium tetraarylborates to acylsilanes yield distinct arylation products depending on the reaction conditions employed.

#### 2. Results and discussion

investigation We with the rhodium-catalyzed began our arylation of benzoyltrimethylsilane (1a). When benzoylsilane 1a was reacted with sodium tetraphenylborate (2a) in toluene at 90 °C in the presence of a catalytic amount of  $[Rh(OH)(cod)]_2$  (cod = cycloocta-1,5-diene), 1,2-addition of arylrhodium(I) species to the carbonyl group of 1a occurred to give diphenyl(trimethylsilyl)methanol (3aa) in 68% yield (Table 1, entry 1) [8–10]. The carbonyl arylation is considered to proceed via 1,2-addition of an arylrhodium(I) species to an acylsilane C=O bond. Other tetraarylborates 2b-e also participated in the reaction with 1a to produce the corresponding  $\alpha$ -silvl benzhydrols 3ab-ae (entries 2–5). Product **3af** derived from electron-rich tetraarylborate **2af** (Ar = 4-MeOC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>) was unstable, and it rearranged to diaryl ketone 6f during isolation (entry 6) [11]. The half-life for the rearrangement of relatively stable **3ad** (Ar = 4-CF<sub>3</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>) was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR to be approximately two weeks at room temperature in the absence of light [12]. Benzoylsilanes bearing SiMe<sub>2</sub>Ph and SiMe<sub>2</sub>t-Bu groups were also converted to the corresponding  $\alpha$ -silvl benzhydrols (**3ba** and **3ca**), albeit with reduced efficacy (entries 7 and 8). In cases where [RhCl(cod)]<sub>2</sub> was used as a catalyst instead of [Rh(OH)(cod)]<sub>2</sub>, a decrease in yields was observed (**3aa**: 52%, **3ba**: 44%, **3ca**: 42%).

### Table 1

Rhodium-catalyzed arylation of benzoyltrimethylsilane to afford  $\alpha$ -silyl benzhydrols 3.<sup>a</sup>

	O + NaBA Ph <b>Si</b> <b>1 2</b> (1.5 ec	r <sub>4</sub> 3 mol% [Rh(OH)(cod)] <sub>2</sub> toluene, 90 °C, 8 h quiv)	HO <i>Si</i> Ph A	r
Entry	1 (Si)	2 (Ar)	Product	Yield (%)
1	<b>1a</b> (SiMe <sub>3</sub> )	2a (Ph)	3aa	$68^{b} (65)^{c}$
2	1a	<b>2b</b> (4-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	3ab	56
3	1a	<b>2c</b> (3-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	3ac	46
4	1a	<b>2d</b> (4-CF <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	3ad	60
5	1a	<b>2e</b> (4-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	3ae	52
6	1a	<b>2f</b> (4-MeOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	3af	d
7	1b (SiMe <sub>2</sub> Ph)	2a	3ba	53 <sup>e</sup>
8	1c (SiMe <sub>2</sub> <i>t</i> -Bu)	2a	3ca	$52^{\rm f}$

<sup>a</sup> Conditions: **1** (0.10 mmol), **2** (0.15 mmol), and [Rh(OH)(cod)]<sub>2</sub> (3.0 μmol, 6 mol% Rh) in toluene (1.0 mL) at 90 °C for 8 h.

<sup>b</sup> 52% yield with [RhCl(cod)]<sub>2</sub>.

<sup>c</sup> Performed on a 0.5 mmol scale.

<sup>d</sup> Diaryl ketone **6f** was isolated in 46% yield.

<sup>e</sup> 44% yield with [RhCl(cod)]<sub>2</sub>.

<sup>f</sup> 42% yield with [RhCl(cod)]<sub>2</sub>.

In addition to the benzoylsilanes **1a–c**, acetyl(trimethylsilyl)silane (**1d**) was also utilized as the substrate for the rhodium-catalyzed arylation with **2** (Scheme 1). The reaction of **1d** and **2a** furnished 1-phenyl-1-silylethanol **3da** in 60% yield.



Scheme 1. Arylation of acetylsilane 1d with 2a

In contrast, the reaction performed in 1,4-dioxane in the presence of [RhCl(cod)]<sub>2</sub> provided benzhydryl trimethylsilyl ether (**4aa**) in 81% NMR yield (Scheme 2). The silyl ether **4aa** was desilylated during chromatography over silica gel to afford benzhydrol (**5a**) in 59% yield. The formation of **4aa** can be accounted for by considering the Brook-type 1,4-rhodium/silicon exchange occurring with the intermediate [diphenyl(trimethylsilyl)methoxy]rhodium(I) [13,14,15]. Similar results were obtained when the reaction was performed in the absence of light (**4aa**, 53% NMR yield), indicating that siloxycarbene generated by a photoinduced 1,2-silyl shift might not be involved in the process.



Scheme 2. Rhodium-catalyzed arylation of 1a affording benzhydryl silyl ether 4

The reaction performed in protic solvents led to the exclusive formation of desilylated benzhydrols **5** (Table 2). The arylation of **1a** with **2a** in EtOH in the presence of  $[RhCl(cod)]_2$  produced alcohol **5a** in 73% yield. Because **3aa** was recovered unchanged when heated at 90 °C in EtOH both in the presence and absence of the rhodium catalyst, the formation of **5a** may be ascribed to the desilylation of **4aa** instead of **3aa** under these catalytic conditions. Phenyl(tolyl)methanols (**5b** and **5c**) were obtained from the reaction of **1a** with tolylborates (**2b** and **2c**) (entries 2 and 3). Although borates **2d** and **2e** failed to give benzhydrols **5**, 4-methoxyphenyl derivative **2f** was successfully arylated with **1a** to afford **5f** in 61% yield (entry 4). The use of dimethyl(phenyl)silyl derivative **1b** for the reaction with **2a** also led to the formation of desired product **5a** in 83% yield (entry 5), whereas the reaction of **1c** provided TBS ether **4ca**, which was resistant to desilylation under the investigated reaction conditions (entry 6).

#### Table 2

Rhodium-catalyzed arylation of 1 to afford benzhydrols 5.<sup>a</sup>

		3 mol% [RhCl(cod)] <sub>2</sub>		
	Ph Si	EtOH, 90 °C, 16 h	PhA	r
	<b>1 2</b> (1.05	equiv)	5	
Entry	1 (Si)	<b>2</b> (Ar)	Product	Yield (%)
1	1a (SiMe <sub>3</sub> )	<b>2a</b> (Ph)	5a	73 (84) <sup>b</sup>
2	1a	<b>2b</b> (4-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	5b	87
3	1a	<b>2c</b> (3-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	5c	42
4	1a	<b>2f</b> (4-MeOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	5f	61
5	1b (SiMe <sub>2</sub> Ph)	2a	5a	83

# 6 **1c** (SiMe<sub>2</sub>t-Bu) **2a**<sup>c</sup> **4ca**<sup>d</sup> 50<sup>e</sup> <sup>a</sup> Conditions: **1** (0.10 mmol), **2** (0.15 mmol), and [RhCl(cod)]<sub>2</sub> (3.0 $\mu$ mol, 6 mol% Rh) in EtOH (1.0 mL) at 90 °C for 16 h. <sup>b</sup> Performed on a 0.5 mmol scale (14 h). <sup>c</sup> 1.5 equiv of **2a** was used. <sup>d</sup> Benzhydryl *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl ether.

<sup>e</sup> 69% yield with 3 equiv of **2a**.

The rhodium-catalyzed arylation of **1** under more forcing conditions gave rise to diaryl ketones **6** (Table 3) [16,17]. Because the oxidation of alcohols **5** to ketone **6** under the investigated reaction conditions was virtually unnoticeable, **6** appears to be formed directly from  $\alpha$ -silyl benzhydrols **3**. Indeed, heating **3aa** at 130 °C in *p*-xylene for 24 h, irrespective of the presence of the rhodium catalyst, resulted in the formation of **6a** (49% yield without Rh; 28% yield with Rh), in contrast to the inertness of **3** in solution at temperatures less than 90 °C (*vide supra*).

#### Table 3

Rhodium-catalyzed arylation of 1 to afford diaryl ketones 6.<sup>a</sup>

		3 mol% [RhCl(cod)]		
	Ph Si 1 2 (1.05	<i>p</i> -xylene, 130 °C, 24 5 equiv)	h Ph Ar 6	
Entry	1 (Si)	<b>2</b> (Ar)	Product	Yield (%)
1	<b>1a</b> (SiMe <sub>3</sub> )	<b>2a</b> (Ph)	6a	67 (73) <sup>b</sup>
2	1a	<b>2b</b> (4-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	6b	47
3	1a	<b>2c</b> (3-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	6с	55 <sup>c</sup>

4	1a	<b>2d</b> (4-CF <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	6d	53
5	1a	<b>2e</b> (4-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	6e	40
6	1a	<b>2f</b> (4-MeOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	6f	39 <sup>c</sup>
7	<b>1b</b> (SiMe <sub>2</sub> Ph)	$2\mathbf{a}^{d}$	6a	68
8	1c (SiMe <sub>2</sub> <i>t</i> -Bu)	<b>2a</b> <sup>d</sup>	6a	36 <sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Conditions: **1** (0.10 mmol), **2** (0.15 mmol), and [RhCl(cod)]<sub>2</sub> (3.0 μmol, 6 mol% Rh) in *p*-

xylene (1.0 mL) at 130  $^{\circ}$ C for 24 h.

<sup>b</sup> Performed on a 0.5 mmol scale (45 h).

<sup>c</sup> Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR.

<sup>d</sup> 1.5 equiv of **2a** was used.

<sup>e</sup> 46% yield with 3.0 equiv of **2a**.

#### 3. Conclusion

In summary, the addition of sodium tetraarylborates 2 to acylsilanes 1 occurred in the presence of rhodium(I) catalysts. The reaction gave  $\alpha$ -silyl benzhydrols 3, benzhydryl silyl ethers 4, benzhydrols 5, and diaryl ketones 6 depending on the conditions employed (Scheme 3). Alcohols 5 and ketones 6 were derived only from silyl ethers 4 and silyl alcohols 3, respectively.



Scheme 3. Diagram for the rhodium-catalyzed arylation of acylsilanes

#### 4. Experimental section

4.1 General Procedure for the rhodium-catalyzed arylation of acylsilanes with sodium tetraarylborates

A Schlenk tube was charged with sodium tetraarylborate **2** (0.150 mmol) and  $[Rh(OH)(cod)]_2$  (3 µmol, 6 mol% Rh). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen, and then acylsilane **1** (0.100 mmol) and toluene (1.0 mL) were added via syringe through the septum. After being heated at 90 °C for 8 h, the reaction mixture was filtered through a plug of Florisil<sup>®</sup> washing with hexane–AcOEt (5:1), and the filtrate was concentrated. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane–AcOEt) afforded  $\alpha$ -silyl benzhydrol **3**.

#### 4.1.1. Diphenyl(trimethylsilyl)methanol (3aa).

Pale yellow oil. IR ( $\nu$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2962, 1250, 837, 760, 702; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.13 (s, 9H), 1.97 (s, 1H), 7.17–7.24 (m, 2H), 7.27–7.38 (m, 8H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  –2.3, 75.7, 126.2, 126.6, 128.0, 146.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NaOSi [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 279.1176, found 279.1179.

#### 4.1.2. Phenyl(p-tolyl)(trimethylsilyl)methanol (3ab).

Pale yellow oil. IR ( $\nu$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3487, 2962, 1651, 1281, 1250, 841, 702; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.13 (s, 9H), 1.93 (s, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 7.12 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.15–7.36

(m, 7H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  –2.3, 75.5, 126.0, 126.4, 126.7, 127.9, 128.8, 135.8, 143.8, 146.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NaOSi [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 293.1332, found 293.1327.

#### 4.1.3. Phenyl(m-tolyl)(trimethylsilyl)methanol (3ac).

Pale yellow oil. IR ( $\nu$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2962, 1250, 841, 748, 702; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.13 (s, 9H), 1.96 (s, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 7.02 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15–7.24 (m, 4H), 7.27–7.37 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  –2.3, 21.7, 75.6, 123.8, 126.1, 126.5, 127.0, 127.2, 127.8, 128.0, 137.7, 146.6, 146.7; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NaOSi [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 293.1332, found 293.1331.

#### 4.1.4. Phenyl[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl](trimethylsilyl)methanol (3ad).

Pale yellow oil. IR ( $\nu$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3479, 2962, 1250, 1103, 887, 841, 756, 702; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.05 (s, 9H), 1.93 (s, 1H), 7.15–7.38 (m, 7H), 7.42–7.52 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  –2.4, 75.7, 124.3 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 271.5 Hz), 124.8 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.7 Hz), 125.7, 126.4, 126.9, 128.0 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 32.3 Hz), 128.4, 146.1, 150.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NaOSi [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 347.1049, found 347.1055.

#### 4.1.5. (4-Chlorophenyl)(phenyl)(trimethylsilyl)methanol (3ae).

Pale yellow oil. IR ( $\nu$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3479, 2962, 1250, 1211, 1095, 1003, 887, 841, 764; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.12 (s, 9H), 1.96 (br s, 1H), 7.19–7.35 (m, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  –2.4, 75.3, 126.6, 126.7, 127.8, 128.0, 128.2, 131.8, 145.1, 146.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>19</sub>ClNaOSi [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 313.0786, found 313.0792.

#### 4.1.6. [Dimethyl(phenyl)silyl]diphenylmethanol (3ba).

Pale yellow oil. IR ( $\nu$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3556, 3062, 1250, 810, 741, 702; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.39 (s, 6H), 2.08 (s, 1H), 7.15–7.41 (m, 15H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  – 3.9, 75.7, 126.2, 126.6, 127.6, 127.9, 129.3, 135.0, 136.4, 146.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NaOSi [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 341.1332, found 341.1332.

#### 4.1.7. (tert-Butyldimethylsilyl)diphenylmethanol (3ca).

Pale yellow oil. IR ( $\nu$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3444, 2958, 1246, 841, 760, 702; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  –0.01 (s, 9H), 1.46 (br s, 1H), 1.63 (s, 3H), 7.14–7.21 (m, 1H), 7.28–7.36 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  –4.3, 25.9, 69.8, 124.4, 125.3, 127.9, 148.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NaOSi [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 217.1019, found 217.1020.

#### 4.1.8. 1-Phenyl-1-(trimethylsilyl)ethanol (3da).

Pale yellow oil. IR ( $\nu$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3444, 2958, 1246, 841, 760, 702; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  –0.01 (s, 9H), 1.46 (br s, 1H), 1.63 (s, 3H), 7.14–7.21 (m, 1H), 7.28–7.36 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  –4.3, 25.9, 69.8, 124.4, 125.3, 127.9, 148.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NaOSi [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 217.1019, found 217.1020.

#### Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data related to this article can be found at http:// dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jorganchem.XXXX.XXX.

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#### ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

• Addition of sodium tetraarylborates to acylsilanes occurs in the presence of rhodium(I) catalysts.

• Four different arylated products are obtained depending on the reaction conditions employed.

 $\bullet \alpha$ -Silyl benzhydrols are converted into the corresponding dirayl ketones.

#### Rhodium-catalyzed arylation of acylsilanes with sodium tetraarylborates

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**General.** All reactions were carried out with standard Schlenk techniques. Column chromatography was carried out on Wakogel C-200 (75–150  $\mu$ m). Preparative thin-layer chromatography was performed on Wakogel<sup>®</sup> B-5F. Proton chemical shifts were referenced to residual CHCl<sub>3</sub> signal at 7.26 ppm. Carbon chemical shifts were referenced to CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 77.0 ppm.

Materials. Acylsilanes (1b and 1c) [1] and sodium tetraarylborates (2b–f) [2] were prepared by the literature methods. All other commercially available chemical resources were used as received without further purification.

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# General Procedure: Rhodium-Catalyzed Arylation of Acylsilanes 1 with Sodium Tetraarylborates 2

HO SiMe<sub>3</sub>

**Diphenyl(trimethylsilyl)methanol (3aa). Table 1, Entry 1:** A Schlenk tube was charged with NaBPh<sub>4</sub> (**2a**, 51.5 mg, 0.150 mmol) and [Rh(OH)(cod)]<sub>2</sub> (1.4 mg, 3.1 µmol, 6 mol% Rh). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen, and then benzoyltrimethylsilane (**1a**, 17.9 mg, 0.100 mmol) and toluene (1.0 mL) were added via syringe through the septum. The mixture was heated at 90 °C for 8 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a plug of Florisil<sup>®</sup> washing with hexane–AcOEt (5:1), and the filtrate was concentrated. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 8:1) afforded the title compound (**3aa**, 17.6 mg, 0.069 mmol, 68%) as a pale yellow oil. IR ( $\nu$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2962, 1250, 837, 760, 702; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.13 (s, 9H), 1.97 (s, 1H), 7.17–7.24 (m, 2H), 7.27–7.38 (m, 8H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  –2.3, 75.7, 126.2, 126.6, 128.0, 146.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NaOSi [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 279.1176, found 279.1179.

HO SiMe<sub>3</sub> Ph

Me

Phenyl(*p*-tolyl)(trimethylsilyl)methanol (3ab). Table 1, Entry 2: According to the General Procedure, 1a (17.1 mg, 0.096 mmol), 2b (60.0 mg, 0.151 mmol), and [Rh(OH)(cod)]<sub>2</sub> (1.5 mg, 3.3 μmol, 7 mol% Rh) were reacted in toluene (1.0 mL) at 90 °C for 6.5 h. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 15:1) afforded the title compound (14.6 mg, 0.054 mmol, 56%) as a pale yellow oil. IR ( $\nu$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3487, 2962, 1651, 1281, 1250, 841, 702; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 0.13 (s, 9H), 1.93 (s, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.15–7.36 (m, 7H); <sup>13</sup>C

NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  –2.3, 75.5, 126.0, 126.4, 126.7, 127.9, 128.8, 135.8, 143.8, 146.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NaOSi [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 293.1332, found 293.1327.



Phenyl(*m*-tolyl)(trimethylsilyl)methanol (3ac). Table 1, Entry 3: According to the General Procedure, 1a (17.3 mg, 0.097 mmol), 2c (59.6 mg, 0.150 mmol), and [Rh(OH)(cod)]<sub>2</sub> (1.5 mg, 3.3 μmol, 7 mol% Rh) were reacted in toluene (1.0 mL) at 90 °C for 2.5 h. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 20:1) afforded the title compound (12.2 mg, 0.045 mmol, 46%) as a pale yellow oil. IR ( $\nu$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2962, 1250, 841, 748, 702; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 0.13 (s, 9H), 1.96 (s, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15–7.24 (m, 4H), 7.27–7.37 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ –2.3, 21.7, 75.6, 123.8, 126.1, 126.5, 127.0, 127.2, 127.8, 128.0, 137.7, 146.6, 146.7; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NaOSi [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 293.1332, found 293.1331.

Phenyl[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl](trimethylsilyl)methanol (3ad). Table 1, Entry 4: According to the General Procedure, 1a (16.1 mg, 0.090 mmol), 2d (92.1 mg, 0.150 mmol), and [Rh(OH)(cod)]<sub>2</sub> (1.4 mg, 3.1 μmol, 7 mol% Rh) were reacted in toluene (1.0 mL) at 100 °C for 2.5 h. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 20:1) afforded the title compound (17.5 mg, 0.054 mmol, 60%) as a pale yellow oil. IR ( $\nu$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3479, 2962, 1250, 1103, 887, 841, 756, 702; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 0.05 (s, 9H), 1.93 (s, 1H), 7.15–7.38 (m, 7H), 7.42–7.52 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ –2.4, 75.7, 124.3 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 271.5 Hz), 124.8 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.7 Hz), 125.7, 126.4, 126.9, 128.0 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 32.3 Hz), 128.4, 146.1, 150.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NaOSi [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 347.1049, found 347.1055.

SiMe<sub>3</sub> HO Ph

(4-Chlorophenyl)(phenyl)(trimethylsilyl)methanol (3ae). Table 1, Entry 5: According to the General Procedure, 1a (17.9 mg, 0.100 mmol), 2e (72.0 mg, 0.150 mmol), and [Rh(OH)(cod)]<sub>2</sub> (1.4 mg, 3.1 µmol, 6 mol% Rh) were reacted in toluene (1.0 mL) at 90 °C for 2 h. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 20:1) afforded the title compound (15.1 mg, 0.052 mmol, 52%) as a pale yellow oil. IR ( $\nu$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3479, 2962, 1250, 1211, 1095, 1003, 887, 841, 764; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 0.12 (s, 9H), 1.96 (br s, 1H), 7.19–7.35 (m, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ –2.4, 75.3, 126.6, 126.7, 127.8, 128.0, 128.2, 131.8, 145.1, 146.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>19</sub>CINaOSi [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 313.0786, found 313.0792.



(4-Methoxyphenyl)(phenyl)methanone (6f). Table 1, Entry 6: According to the General Procedure, 1a (17.8 mg, 0.100 mmol), 2f (69.3 mg, 0.150 mmol), and  $[Rh(OH)(cod)]_2$  (1.4 mg, 6.4 µmol, 6 mol% Rh) were reacted in toluene (1.0 mL) at 90 °C for 18 h. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 8:1) afforded the title compound (9.8 mg, 0.046 mmol, 46%) as white solid. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those in the literature [3].

**Table 3, Entry 6: 1a** (17.0 mg, 0.095 mmol), **2f** (46.7 mg, 0.101 mmol), and  $[RhCl(cod)]_2$  (1.6 mg, 3.2 µmol, 7 mol% Rh) were reacted in *p*-xylene (1.0 mL) at 130 °C for 42 h. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 15:1) afforded an inseparable mixture of **6f** and 4,4'-dimethoxy-1,1'-biphenyl (10.7 mg, 75:25 by <sup>1</sup>H NMR, 39%).

<sup>[3]</sup> D. Xing, B. Guan, G. Cai, Z. Fang, L. Yang, Z. Shi, Org. Lett. 8 (2006) 693–696.

HO SiMe<sub>2</sub>Ph

[Dimethyl(phenyl)silyl]diphenylmethanol (3ba). Table 1, Entry 7: According to the General Procedure, 1b (24.0 mg, 0.100 mmol), 2a (51.4 mg, 0.150 mmol), and  $[Rh(OH)(cod)]_2$  (1.4 mg, 3.1 µmol, 6 mol% Rh) were reacted in toluene (1.0 mL) at 90 °C for 6 h. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 15:1) afforded the title compound (16.9 mg, 0.053 mmol, 53%) as a pale yellow oil. IR ( $\nu$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3556, 3062, 1250, 810, 741, 702; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.39 (s, 6H), 2.08 (s, 1H), 7.15–7.41 (m, 15H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  – 3.9, 75.7, 126.2, 126.6, 127.6, 127.9, 129.3, 135.0, 136.4, 146.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NaOSi [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 341.1332, found 341.1332.

HO SiMe<sub>2</sub>(*t*-Bu)

(*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl)diphenylmethanol (3ca). Table 1, Entry 8: According to the General Procedure, 1c (22.0 mg, 0.100 mmol), 2a (51.4 mg, 0.150 mmol), and [Rh(OH)(cod)]<sub>2</sub> (1.4 mg, 3.1 µmol, 6 mol% Rh) were reacted in toluene (1.0 mL) at 90 °C for 10 h. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 20:1) afforded the title compound (15.5 mg, 0.052 mmol, 52%) as a pale yellow oil. IR ( $\nu$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3518, 2931, 2854, 1257, 833, 764, 702; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 0.17 (s, 6H), 0.77 (s, 9H), 2.01 (s, 1H), 7.15–7.23 (m, 2H), 7.26–7.35 (m, 4H), 7.44–7.52 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ –5.2, 18.8, 28.1, 76.9, 126.0, 126.1, 127.9, 146.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NaOSi [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 321.1645, found 321.1641.

HO SiMe<sub>3</sub> Me Ph

**1-Phenyl-1-(trimethylsilyl)ethanol (3da). Scheme 1:** According to the General Procedure, **1d** (11.8 mg, 0.102 mmol), **2a** (51.4 mg, 0.150 mmol), and [Rh(OH)(cod)]<sub>2</sub> (1.4 mg, 3.1 μmol, 6 mol% Rh) were reacted in toluene (1.0 mL) at 90 °C for 12 h. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 10:1) afforded the title compound (11.8 mg, 0.061 mmol, 60%) as a pale yellow oil. IR ( $\nu$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3444, 2958, 1246, 841, 760, 702; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  –0.01 (s, 9H), 1.46 (br s, 1H), 1.63 (s, 3H), 7.14–7.21 (m, 1H), 7.28–7.36 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  –4.3, 25.9, 69.8, 124.4, 125.3, 127.9, 148.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NaOSi [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 217.1019, found 217.1020.

OSiMe₃ Ph <sup>⊥</sup> Ph

(Benzhydryloxy)trimethylsilane (4aa). Scheme 2: According to the General Procedure, 1a (17.9 mg, 0.100 mmol), 2a (51.4 mg, 0.150 mmol), and  $[RhCl(cod)]_2$  (1.5 mg, 3.0 µmol, 6 mol% Rh) were reacted in 1,4-dioxane (1.0 mL) at 80 °C for 2 h. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (neutral, hexane:AcOEt = 10:1) afforded an inseparable mixture of 4aa and biphenyl (23.1 mg, 85:15 by <sup>1</sup>H NMR, 81%). <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those in the literature [4].

## OH Ph Ph

**Diphenylmethanol (5a). Table 2, Entry 1:** According to the General Procedure, **1a** (24.8 mg, 0.139 mmol), **2a** (52.3 mg, 0.153 mmol), and  $[RhCl(cod)]_2$  (2.2 mg, 4.5 µmol, 6 mol% Rh) were reacted in EtOH (1.5 mL) at 90 °C for 13.5 h. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 8:1) afforded the title compound (18.6 mg, 0.101 mmol, 73%) as a white solid. Mp. 65–66 °C. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those in the literature [5].

**Table 2, Entry 5: 1b** (24.0 mg, 0.10 mmol), **2a** (35.9 mg, 0.105 mmol), and [RhCl(cod)]<sub>2</sub> (1.5 mg, 3.0 μmol, 6 mol% Rh) were reacted in EtOH (1.0 mL) at 80 °C for 4 h. Purification by

<sup>[4]</sup> G. Rajagopal, H. Lee, S.S. Kim, Tetrahedron 65 (2009) 4735–4741.

<sup>[5]</sup> A.J. Ruddy, C.M. Kelly, S.M. Crawford, C.A. Wheaton, O.L. Sydora, B.L. Small, M. Stradiotto, L. Turculet, Organometallics 32 (2013) 5581–5588.

preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 15:1) afforded the title compound (15.3 mg, 0.083 mmol, 83%) as a white solid.



**Phenyl**(*p*-tolyl)methanol (5b). Table 2, Entry 2: According to the General Procedure, 1a (16.4 mg, 0.092 mmol), 2b (39.7 mg, 0.100 mmol), and  $[RhCl(cod)]_2$  (1.4 mg, 2.8 µmol, 6 mol% Rh) were reacted in EtOH (1.0 mL) at 80 °C for 5 h. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 10:1) afforded the title compound (15.8 mg, 0.080 mmol, 87%) as a white solid. Mp. 53–54 °C. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those in the literature [6].



Phenyl(*m*-tolyl)methanol (5c). Table 2, Entry 3: According to the General Procedure, 1a (17.5 mg, 0.098 mmol), 2c (39.8 mg, 0.100 mmol), and [RhCl(cod)]<sub>2</sub> (1.5 mg, 3.0 μmol, 6 mol% Rh) were reacted in EtOH (1.0 mL) at 90 °C for 4 h. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 8:1) afforded the title compound (8.1 mg, 0.041 mmol, 42%) as a white solid. Mp. 52.5–53.0 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 2.34 (s, 3H), 5.82 (s, 1H), 7.06–7.11 (m, 1H), 7.14–7.42 (m, 8H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75.5 MHz) δ 21.5, 76.3, 123.6, 126.5, 127.2, 127.5, 128.3, 128.4, 128.5, 138.2, 143.7, 143.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NaO [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 221.0937, found 221.0938.

<sup>[6]</sup> A.A. Oluyadi, S. Ma, S.; C.N. Muhoro, Organometallics 32 (2013) 70–78.



(4-Methoxyphenyl)(phenyl)methanol (5f). Table 2, Entry 4: According to the General Procedure, 1a (17.8 mg, 0.100 mmol), 2f (48.5 mg, 0.105 mmol), and  $[RhCl(cod)]_2$  (1.5 mg, 3.0  $\mu$ mol, 6 mol% Rh) were reacted in EtOH (1.0 mL) at 80 °C for 12 h. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 10:1) afforded the title compound (13.1 mg, 0.061 mmol, 61%) as a white solid. Mp 63–64 °C. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those in the literature [7].

(*t*-Bu)Me<sub>2</sub>SiO H

(Benzhydryloxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane (4ca). Table 2, Entry 6: According to the General Procedure, 1c (22.0 mg, 0.100 mmol), 2a (51.4 mg, 0.150 mmol), and [RhCl(cod)]<sub>2</sub> (1.5 mg, 3.0 µmol, 6 mol% Rh) were reacted in EtOH (1.0 mL) at 80 °C for 4 h. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 20:1) afforded the title compound (15.0 mg, 0.050 mmol, 50%) as a pale yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  –0.05 (s, 6H), 0.90 (s, 9H), 5.73 (s, 1H), 7.14–7.21 (m, 2H), 7.22–7.29 (m, 4H), 7.30–7.36 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  – 4.9, 18.3, 25.8, 76.6, 126.3, 126.9, 128.1, 145.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NaOSi [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 321.1645, found 321.1644.

O Ph Pr

**Benzophenone (6a). Table 3, Entry 1:** According to the General Procedure, **1a** (17.8 mg, 0.100 mmol), **2a** (35.9 mg, 0.105 mmol), and  $[RhCl(cod)]_2$  (1.5 mg, 3.0 µmol, 6 mol% Rh) were reacted in *p*-xylene (1.0 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel

<sup>[7]</sup> M. Kuriyama, N. Ishiyama, R. Shimazawa, O. Onomura, Tetrahedron 66 (2010) 6814–6819.

(hexane:AcOEt = 20:1) afforded the title compound (12.2 mg, 0.067 mmol, 67%) as a white solid. Mp. 49.0–49.5 °C. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those in the literature [8].

**Table 3, Entry 7: 1b** (24.0 mg, 0.100 mmol), **2a** (51.4 mg, 0.150 mmol), and  $[RhCl(cod)]_2$  (1.5 mg, 3.0 µmol, 6 mol% Rh) were reacted in *p*-xylene (1.0 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 20:1) afforded the title compound (12.4 mg, 0.068 mmol, 68%) as a white solid.

**Table 3, Entry 8: 1c** (22.0 mg, 0.100 mmol), **2a** (51.4 mg, 0.150 mmol), and  $[RhCl(cod)]_2$  (1.5 mg, 3.0 µmol, 6 mol% Rh) were reacted in *p*-xylene (1.0 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 20:1) afforded the title compound (6.6 mg, 0.036 mmol, 36%) as a white solid.



**Phenyl**(*p*-tolyl)methanone (6b). Table 3, Entry 2: According to the General Procedure, 1a (26.3 mg, 0.147 mmol), 2b (59.7 mg, 0.150 mmol), and  $[RhCl(cod)]_2$  (2.3 mg, 4.7 µmol, 6 mol% Rh) were reacted in *p*-xylene (1.5 mL) at 130 °C for 42 h. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 15:1) afforded the title compound (13.7 mg, 0.070 mmol, 47%) as a white solid. Mp. 56.5–57.0 °C. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those in the literature [9].



Phenyl(*m*-tolyl)methanone (6c). Table 3, Entry 3: According to the General Procedure, 1a (17.8 mg, 0.100 mmol), 2c (40.0 mg, 0.100 mmol), and [RhCl(cod)]<sub>2</sub> (1.5 mg, 3.0 µmol, 6 mol%

<sup>[8]</sup> L. Meng, J. Su, Z. Zha, L. Zhang, Z. Zhang, Z. Wang, Chem. Eur. J. 19 (2013) 5542–5545.

<sup>[9]</sup> W.-Y. Wu, T.-C. Lin, T. Takahashi, F.-Y. Tsai, C.-Y. Mou, ChemCatChem 5 (2013) 1011–1019.

Rh) were reacted in *p*-xylene (1.0 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 15:1) afforded an inseparable mixture of **6c** and 3,3'-dimethyl-1,1'-biphenyl (11.4 mg, 93:7 by <sup>1</sup>H NMR, 55%). <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those in the literature [10].

**Phenyl[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methanone (6d). Table 3, Entry 4:** According to the General Procedure, **1a** (16.5 mg, 0.093 mmol), **2d** (60.4 mg, 0.098 mmol), and  $[RhCl(cod)]_2$  (1.4 mg, 2.8 µmol, 6 mol% Rh) were reacted in *p*-xylene (1.0 mL) at 130 °C for 36 h. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 15:1) afforded the title compound (12.2 mg, 0.049 mmol, 53%) as a white solid. Mp. 72–73 °C. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those in the literature [11].

(4-Chlorophenyl)(phenyl)methanone (6e). Table 3, Entry 5: According to the General Procedure, 1a (17.3 mg, 0.097 mmol), 2e (48.0 mg, 0.100 mmol), and  $[RhCl(cod)]_2$  (1.5 mg, 3.0  $\mu$ mol, 6 mol% Rh) were reacted in *p*-xylene (1.0 mL) at 130 °C for 30 h. Purification by preparative TLC on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 8:1) afforded the title compound (8.4 mg, 0.039 mmol, 40%) as a white solid. Mp. 114–115 °C. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those in the literature [12].

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**S**12















